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REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, July 5. 1707.

I Know I shall be charg'd with Digressions and flying out from my Subject, which is too apt of it self to slip out of the Heads of the Readers, when the Thread of Discourse is too much interrupted—But the Seasonableness of what I am upon, shall atone for that; and I perswade my self, those who have any Concern for the publick Good, or Charity for this Work, will be pleas'd with it, and for those that have not, I have no Concern upon me about them; I neither seek to please them, or regard their Censure.

We have a long time been glutted with Successes, Victory has crown'd all our Attempts, and the proudest Enemy, *Europe* ever yet contended with, has been humbled in a Manner, we could hardly have wish'd for—He must have had some more than ordinary Assurance in his Thoughts, that could have

had the Face to look up to Heaven, and have pray'd for three such Victories in one Year; Every Post brought us News of one Addition to another, till the Sum of our Conquests surmounted our common Faith: People were amaz'd with the Successes, look'd upon one another as if they dream'd, and the Messengers of Joy came crowding in upon us, one in the Neck of another, that we seem'd surfeited with great things; small Matters, as the taking of here and there a City or two, or so, were of no Moment with us, we dealt in Revolutions of Provinces, and made nothing of whole Governments in a Post.

Immediately the King of *France* was to be dethron'd, all his Power dissolv'd, his Force broken; *one Author* was for mutilating him as a Man, another for mutilating his Dominion and him as a King; here one was for

for deposing him quite, there another for stripping him naked——To Day we would dismantle all his Fortifications; to Morrow take away all his Ships, and let him build no more without asking us leave——And one greedier than all the rest, was for dividing all his Dominions among the Confederates—and sending him to *Rome* to beg a Pardon.

Well, Gentlemen, I won't insult you now, upon what I told you then; nor expose your Prudence about sharing this *Bear Skin*, before you had got the Bear—I spent some time to prove to you then, that all we ought to desire by this War, was a *good Peace*: I brought you Instances, that it was really the *End* of the War, that *England* sought no Conquests, that free Kingdoms and States never make invasive War, that we fight for Liberty, Peace, and Freedom of Commerce, that we may preserve our own, not that we may get from others, what we have no Right to. I brought you the *QUEEN's* Majesty's Speeches, the Declarations of all our Confederates——Nothing would do with you, nothing but Conquests and Victories, and the *French King* was hardly of Consideration enough for you, to think there could be any more fighting requir'd to make an End of him.

Now, Gentlemen, you see, *Cæsars Maxim* appears very good, tho' made a great many Years ago, viz. *Never to despise an Enemy*; and I shall make some Use of all these things in this Paper for the general Instruction, if you please to accept of it.

When I first began this Paper, and call'd it a *Review of the Affairs of France*, a Title, I am perswaded, I shall yet return to again.—When I say, I first began it, I entred into a full Description of the real Greatness of *France*; I coasted round his Dominions, I gave you general Schemes of his Power, the Extent of his Nation, the formidable Number of his Forces, his Fleets, his Riches, and particularly the extraordinary Dexterity of his Management, the Exactness wherewith he was obey'd, the Punctualness with which he was serv'd, how swift, how direct, and how every way extraordinarily his Orders were executed, and the Advantages he had of the rest of the Confederates by this; then I proceeded to shew the Extent of *French*

Influence, on the other Courts, Powers and Princes in the World.

While I was doing this, and it yet remain'd unknown, who was the Author of this Paper, O how pleas'd were some People with its Contents! How grateful was it to a certain Generation of Men to hear of the invincible Power, as they thought it, of *England's Enemies*!—How did they embrace this Paper, and cry up the Impartiality of the Performance!—When afterwards they knew the Name of the Author, how wonderfully was he caress'd! they began to think, *Newgate* had reform'd him, that he had taken the Usage of the *Whiggs*, as indeed they knew he had but too much Cause, so ill, that he was come off from them, and in his Resentment at the People had abandon'd their Cause: They express'd a greater Satisfaction at the Conversion, than he thinks they need do, for the gaining so little a Proselyte, if they had had him; and thus for some time this Paper was their Favourite.

On the other hand, the *Whiggs* began to be of the same Mind; I could meet none of my old Friends, but they would ask me, if I was turn'd *Jacobite*, and I came very seriously to me, and enquire about it.

I desir'd them all to be quiet, and let me alone, and thus I went on with my Story, just as I do now, regarding the End, and not taking notice in any Way for the Clamours or Opinions of Men, from the highest to the lowest.

At last I came to apply my Doctrine, which was to tell them, how they had hitherto been impos'd upon; that no body had been so faithful to them, as to tell them the true State of their Enemies Strength—That they had always been slighting and contemning the *French*, and yet had not beaten and reduc'd them, which was a Scandal upon themselves.

I proceeded to tell them, that the *French*, however great, were not invincible; that he might be beaten, and with good Conduct would be beaten, and that he must be beaten, or we should be all ruin'd. Thus I proceeded to the Necessity of the War, and at last to the Methods, viz. Vigorous Prosecution, faithful Administration, united Councils, secret and digested; but above all, an entire

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Conjunction and Reconciliation of Home Quarrells, private Feuds, and Party Strife among our selves; and thus I came to the long long Subject of Peace and Union, which I have dwelt on ever since, and some think too long, that Unanimity among our selves, which is the only Way to fortifie our Interests, strengthen our Alliances, encourage our Confederates, and reduce the French Power, which was so formidable.

And here, Gentlemen, I lost all my new Friends, they presently burnt the REVIEW, damn'd the Author, and flew out against him with all the Rage of an exasperated, disappointed Party.

I confess, it was unexpected to me to fall upon Tackers, High-Flyers, &c. in my way, and who indeed could foresee, that any such ridiculous Doings, as we found from those consolidating Gentlemen, could be seen in this Island? but since it was so, it could not be expected, but that a Paper pressing to Peace and Union, and strengthening the Revolution Principle, a Paper showing the best Method how the French should be reduc'd, should meet with but very ill Treatment; and indeed I have had more than my Share of it, tho' not enough to make me repent or recant having embark'd in so good a Work.

I need go back no more to the Circumstances; I bore it without Vanity, Gentlemen, of the Success, and cannot but observe two things, that confirm beyond Exception all I have said.

1. While Divisions prevail'd, while High-Flyers rul'd, while Madmen were made Statesmen, and the Gentlemen of the people govern'd, let all the World judge of our Success — How awkward, how backward every thing went, how mean were the Advancements we made, how did France contemn us, and what Progress did they every way make upon us?

2. But when GOD, for the Safety and Blessing of this Nation, began to open their Eyes, when they began to hearken to uniting Councils, to listen to the Language of Heaven and Her Majesty, both of which loudly call'd on them to lay aside their unnatural Treatment of one another, and no longer assist the Destroyers of the World; When thus they began to take wiser Measures, how

soon did the Face of things alter? How soon did the War change its Countenance, the Progress in the Netherlands, the Victory of *Blenheim*, the Reduction of *Bavaria*, the Relieving the Empire, and the Wonders of the last Summer at *Barcelona*, *Ramellies*, and *Turin*?

And now we begin to see the Blessed End of the War in View; the King of France offer'd Peace, with some Sort of pressing Instances, and no doubt but the Terms might have been very good, but the Confederates did not think France reduc'd low enough to grant such Conditions, as they thought reasonable to demand, and therefore refus'd to treat, resolv'd to try another Campaign.

Now I would not be mistaken in what I am going to say; I do not wish, the Proposals of a Treaty had been hearkned to last Year, from any Diffidence I have of the ill Event of this Campaign, tho' I must own, I always wish'd a Treaty had been begun; I am still perswaded, the Confederates will yet wear down the Power of France from another Foundation, as well as by mere fighting; and that is, that the Strength of France is certainly exhausted as to Expence, and were he to have the better in every Action, provided not too fatally great, yet he must sink under the Expence before the Confederates, as was apparent in the last War.

From whence I argue, that every Action of the French that does not lessen his Expence, or which does not raise him Money, is ruinous to him, tho' he should gain the Victory.

Upon this Score it was my Opinion, that quitting *Lombardy* was an Advantage, not a Loss to the French, besides the saving their Troops; since the Expence of maintaining an Army of 30000 Men in the *Mantuan* and those Parts, was always equal to France, as maintaining 60000 Men on the *Rhine*, or 80000 Men in *Flanders*; and from hence I esteem, the safe Arrival of the Ships from *New Spain* into *Brest* and *Cadiz* was, the Seasonableness of the Supply consider'd, equal Advantage to the French, if not superiour to a Victory, and without that Supply, the Victory at *Almanza* had never been obtain'd.

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